

Subject-Verb Agreement D

- 8d.** The following indefinite pronouns are singular: *anybody, anyone, anything, each, either, everybody, everyone, everything, neither, nobody, nothing, no one, one, somebody, someone, and something*.

EXAMPLE **Everyone** is responsible for bringing his or her own lunch.

- 8e.** The following indefinite pronouns are plural: *both, few, many, and several*.

EXAMPLE **Both** of the girls **excel** at basketball.

- 8f.** The indefinite pronouns *all, any, more, most, none, and some* may be singular or plural, depending on their meaning in a sentence.

Often, the object in a prepositional phrase that follows the pronoun indicates whether the pronoun is singular or plural. Usually, if the object of the preposition is singular, the pronoun is singular. If the object is plural, the pronoun is plural.

EXAMPLES **Some** of the carrots **have** been sliced. [*Some* refers to the plural object *carrots*.]
Some of the salad **is** in the refrigerator. [*Some* refers to the singular object *salad*.]

EXERCISE Circle the indefinite pronoun in each of the following sentences. Then, underline the correct form of the verb in parentheses.

Example 1. Most of the cups (*was, were*) unbroken after the earthquake.

1. Something about the candidate's answers (*has, have*) been bothering me ever since the debate.
2. Both of the dogs (*has, have*) already been treated for heartworm.
3. All of the stuff in the attic (*need, needs*) to be dusted before the yard sale.
4. Neither of the movies (*is, are*) very good.
5. (*Have, Has*) not several of these dogs already won awards?
6. Everybody who is registered for the class (*read, reads*) the same books.
7. No one in the play (*was, were*) prepared for the overwhelming response of the audience on opening night.
8. (*Is, Are*) any of the dough ready to be baked?
9. The director is pleased that more of the singers (*have, has*) memorized the score for this rehearsal than for the last rehearsal.
10. Somebody among the reporters covering the trial (*is, are*) getting inside information from the district attorney.